

Primary Responsibilities of the

SOUTH CAROLINA BUDGET AND CONTROL BOARD

RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM

Radioactive waste disposal site custodial responsibilities

The Budget and Control Board owns the low-level radioactive waste disposal facility in Barnwell County. The disposal site is leased to Chem-Nuclear Systems, which operates the facility in accordance with terms specified in the lease agreement. Following closure of the disposal site, the Budget and Control Board will assume responsibility for ongoing monitoring and maintenance during an “institutional control period” that will last at least 100 years. A special escrow account, funded through a surcharge on waste disposed at the site, has been established to pay for all costs of monitoring and maintaining the disposal site following closure.

Approval of disposal rates

The Budget and Control Board establishes and adjusts the rate schedules for disposal radioactive waste at the Barnwell facility. Disposal rates for waste generated within the Atlantic Compact region cannot exceed disposal rates available to waste generators outside the region.

Authorization to import waste

As authorized by the Atlantic Compact Commission, the Budget and Control Board may enter into agreements with persons outside the compact region to import waste for disposal at the Barnwell site. Approval of any non-regional waste is subject to the availability of disposal capacity, which is limited under state law

Participate in Public Service Commission proceedings regarding disposal

The South Carolina Public Service Commission is directed by law to determine the costs of operating the Barnwell facility. The disposal site operator is allowed to retain all approved operating costs plus an operating margin (profit). All revenues in excess of operating costs and margin accrue to the state and are earmarked for educational and other purposes. The more efficiently the disposal site operates, the more funds are available to the state and local community. The Budget and Control Board is responsible under law to participate in the PSC proceedings as an advocate for the state to ensure that the disposal site is operated as efficiently as possible.

Determine surcharges and impose assessments

State law requires the expenses incurred by the Budget and Control Board, the Public Service Commission, the State Treasurer, and the Atlantic Compact Commission related to radioactive waste disposal be reimbursed through a surcharge on waste disposed. The Budget and Control Board is responsible for directing the collection of such surcharges and for distributing the funds to the applicable agencies.

Authorize the disbursal of \$12 million for Tri-County development

The Budget and Control Board and the Barnwell County Council are responsible for authorizing the disbursal of nearly \$12 million for economic development in the Barnwell, Bamberg, and Allendale County region of the state. The economic development funds were provided by Connecticut and New Jersey as an incentive for South Carolina to join the Atlantic Compact. The funds are maintained in an interest-bearing account at the Office of State Treasurer.

Prepare annual report to the Compact Commission

The Atlantic Compact statute, which is also South Carolina state law, requires each host state to submit to the Compact an annual report containing waste volume projections, a financial audit of disposal facility operations, and other information required by the Compact Commission. The Radioactive Waste Disposal Program will prepare the report.

Staff the Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council

The Radioactive Waste Disposal Program in the South Carolina Energy Office, Budget and Control Board, is charged under law with providing staff support to the newly reconstituted Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council. The nine-member Advisory Council has a broad charter to provide advice to the Governor on issues involving the use and management of radioactive materials.